

January 2014

## IN THIS EDITION



Mike Wiley brings play to GPAC. See page 3.



See Garner's top parade entries. See page 4.

## TOWN HALL CALENDAR

Jan. 20: MLK HOLIDAY  
(TOWN OFFICES CLOSED)

Jan. 21 Town Council  
meeting (7 p.m.)

Jan. 28: Town Council  
work session (6 p.m.)

Feb. 3: Town Council  
meeting (7 p.m.)

*Meetings are in the Council Chambers in Building B at Town Hall, 900 Seventh Ave. Town Council meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTV11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).*



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# GARNER UPDATE

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## TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM



This conceptual rendering of Garner's new police station received positive feedback from the Town Council last month. Council gave architects the go-ahead to move forward with the project, which is expected to be completed in spring 2015.

## Town Gets Credit-Rating Upgrade Ahead of Bond Issue

The Town of Garner closed out the year on a high note, receiving a credit-rating upgrade from Standard & Poor's just ahead of a Dec. 10 bond issue totaling nearly \$10 million.

The ratings boost from AA to AA+ helped the Town secure a low interest rate of 3.379 percent on bonds that have a 20-year payback period.

In announcing the rating upgrade, S&P cited the Town's "consistently strong financial performance and very strong budget flexibility."

S&P said the AA+ rating reflected positive factors including the Town's sizable budget reserves, its "strong and consistent budgetary performances," its "strong management conditions" and its "very strong in-

stitutional framework." The ratings agency also cited Garner's "strong economy, featuring extremely strong property wealth and access to the broad and diverse Raleigh metropolitan statistical area."

Last March, Garner voters overwhelmingly approved a \$35.7 million bond program. The first round of bonds issued last month will finance a new police station, design and construction of several sidewalks, downtown land acquisition and street improvements, and possible storm-water work related to the future indoor recreation center (see pg. 2).

The remainder of the bonds authorized by voters last year are expected to be issued in increments of under \$10 million in the coming years.



Learn more  
about the  
Garner bond  
program at  
garnernc.gov.



## A Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's 'Great People in Garner' on GTV (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).

One of the dominant themes of the past few years here in Garner—and one that's sure to remain with us in the coming years—is “change.”



I focused on that theme in my State of the Town address, which you'll be able to watch soon on GTV and also on demand at [garnernc.gov](http://garnernc.gov) and on the Town's YouTube channel. We saw lots of

very positive change in Garner in 2013—the completion of the Garner Veterans Memorial, the opening of the WakeMed healthplex, the arrival of new investors and employers, our credit-rating upgrade and, of course, Garner's designation as an All-America City.

And that's only part of the story. There's a lot more I could have cited. And the exciting thing is that we are poised to see much more positive change this year and beyond. The bond program voters approved last

year will mean things like a new indoor rec center, more sidewalks and greenways and plenty more. The next wave of development at White Oak Crossing is sure to transform that area. And the list goes on ...

I couldn't be more optimistic about Garner's future. I wish you and yours a very happy and prosperous 2014.

*Ronnie S. Williams*

Ronnie S. Williams

## GPD Provides Holiday Cheer

Nine local families, including a total of 36 children ranging from infants to high school students, enjoyed a brighter Christmas thanks to the Garner Police Department's annual Shop with a Cop event held Dec. 14-15.

TT&E Iron and Metal of Garner was the major sponsor of the event, with additional support provided by Walmart, McDonald's, Bruegger's, Papa John's, Jersey Mike's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chick-fil-A, La Roma Pizza, Domino's, Food Lion, Lowes Foods, Mimi The Melody Maker and Town of Garner employees.

There was a party on Dec. 14 for participating families with donated food and supplies and entertainment by Mimi the Clown and Santa. The next morning, the families went shopping for presents at Walmart with GPD officers and their families, PAAL/GPD Explorer cadets and TT&E employees. There was also a donated breakfast that morning.

Det. Amy Miller is the organizer of GPD's Shop with a Cop.

## TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM

### Town to Hold Informational Meeting on Rec Center Project

The Town will hold a public informational meeting on the indoor recreation center project Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Garner Performing Arts Center.

Citizens are invited to learn more about feedback received during prior public and committee meetings on the planned center and about the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant Application for the project.

The center, to be located at the corner of Main and Montague streets in historic downtown Garner, is made possible in part by the Town of Garner bond program that was overwhelmingly approved by Garner voters last March.

For more information, contact the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department at (919) 773-4442.

### IT Director Completes CIO Program

Town IT Director Bret Kelly (center) recently completed the UNC School of Government's chief information officer certification program, an 11-month course addressing critical issues facing IT leadership in local governments.







## Get Your Garner All-America City T-shirts!



Available in white and royal blue  
in all adult sizes

ONLY \$8!

For sale at Town Hall (bldg. A), Garner  
Senior Center and White Deer Park Nature Center

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Towne Players Present 'A Tuna Christmas' in January

Tim Stancil and Greg Flowers take us back to Tuna, Texas, for the wildest holiday season ever. The two brilliant comic actors portray every man, woman and pet in the small town as we celebrate "A Tuna Christmas" at Garner Performing Arts Center (742 W. Garner Road) in a show that's far too funny for just Christmas! Shows are Jan. 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25 at 8 p.m. and a matinee on Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for students/seniors) and are available at the door.



### Garner to Observe MLK Birthday on Jan. 19 at GPAC

Join the greater Garner community for the fourth annual celebration of the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Garner Performing Arts Center on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 4 p.m. Admission is free. Keynote speaker will be the Rev. Charles Brooks, pastor of Poplar Springs Christian Church. The event is free, but please bring nonperishable food items to be donated to the food pantry at Garner Area Ministries.



### Mike Wiley Portrays Jackie Robinson in One-Man Play Feb. 1

"Jackie Robinson: A Game Apart" is a one-person play by Mike Wiley that provides a glimpse of Jackie Robinson's life during the era of separate and unequal locker rooms, of whites-only hotels and of restaurants with only a back door for African-American athletes to enter. "A Game Apart" is a powerful lesson of courage through dedication, perseverance and leadership. The play comes to Garner Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for students, children and seniors). To buy tickets in advance, visit [garnerperformingartscenter.com](http://garnerperformingartscenter.com).



You can follow  
GPAC on Twitter  
(@GPACGarner)  
and Facebook.



### Free Showing of Jackie Robinson Biopic on Feb. 1 at GPAC

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department and Garner Performing Arts Center will offer a free screening of "42-The Jackie Robinson Story" on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. "42" is a 2013 biopic about the life of baseball legend Jackie Robinson. The film stars Chadwick Boseman as Robinson and Harrison Ford as Branch Rickey. It is rated PG-13.



### Mortimer Returns to White Deer Park for Groundhog Day

Get your long-range weather forecast – plus enjoy fun activities and hanging out with Mortimer the Groundhog and some of his friends – at Garner's annual Groundhog Day celebration on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at White Deer Park (2400 Aversboro Road). General parking is at Lake Benson Park (921 Buffaloe Road), handicap parking at White Deer Park. MORTIMER'S PREDICTION IS AT 3 P.M.





## Winning 2013 All-America Christmas Parade Entries

Pictured below are the winning entries in the 2013 Garner Christmas Parade. The theme of the parade was "All-America Christmas." The winners (clockwise from top left) are as follows: Dancing Spirits Y-Princess Tribe (Mayor's Award);

Wake Baptist Grove Church (Best-Themed Float); Chick-fil-A (Best-Themed Truck and Trailer); Christy's DancExplosion (Best Overall Theme); Wake Christian Academy (Best Marching Unit).



You can follow Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources on Facebook.

